

IN RECOGNITION OF GENERAL C.
ROBERT KEHLER

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate General C. Robert Kehler being promoted General and becoming Commander of the Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base.

Prior to assuming command of AFSPC, General Kehler served as the Deputy Commander for U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Entering the Air Force in 1975 upon his graduation from Pennsylvania State University as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, General Kehler went on to graduate from missile operational readiness training. This area of expertise has enabled him to serve in various roles from missile crew, to instructor, to evaluator and in wing-level staff positions.

After completing an Air Staff Internship and tour at Strategic Air Command headquarters, General Kehler served in the Office of Legislative Liaison of the Secretary of the Air Force, a capacity in which he was the expert on Capitol Hill for issues regarding the ICBM Modernization Program. While serving on the Joint Staff, General Kehler aided in the overhaul of the nuclear war plan structure and targeting. In addition to his recent position as Director of National Security Space Integration for the Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, General Kehler was also the Deputy Director of Operations at Air Force Space Command at Peterson where he was Commander of the 21st Space Wing.

It is a pleasure to welcome General Kehler back to Colorado. I know that AFSPC will benefit tremendously from his capable leadership.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM AND PATHFINDER MODIFICATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman RAHALL, Ranking Member YOUNG, Subcommittee Chairwoman NAPOLITANO, Subcommittee Ranking Member MCMORRIS RODGERS and all of the staff for their work on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Pathfinder Modification Authorization Act.

It is encouraging to see this longstanding issue finally reach a settlement. After years of study and review by the states, Federal Government, water users, land owners, and other interested parties, the time has come to resolve this matter once and for all.

I cosponsored this legislation as part of the consensus to recognize the reality of the challenges before us with collective decision-making and cooperation. However, this agreement does impact some of our farmers and ranch-

ers, and we must continue to be cognizant of the impact of the Endangered Species Act. As we move forward with the implementation of the Program, positive and negative economic impacts must be assessed and considered in order to minimize adverse effects of the recovery efforts.

I support moving forward with this legislation as the first step of many to protect and recover species and provide long-term water use for our communities.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3963, CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3963, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

For the past several months, Congress has debated an issue that should not be considered controversial—the healthcare of our Nation's most vulnerable children. The reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, is vitally important for the Nation and particularly my district of El Paso, Texas, where currently, over 14,000 children in El Paso County are enrolled in the program.

In El Paso, with thousands of children who rely on SCHIP for a scheduled checkup or to receive items like eyeglasses and prescription drugs, this program is critically important. Health care is extremely expensive, and SCHIP is not only vital to children and families, but is important to our health care infrastructure overall. Our health care delivery system in the border region and across the country is already challenged as it is. Cutting SCHIP funding would only result in a greater burden on our hospitals. Without access to doctors for regular checkups and routine appointments, families would potentially wait until health problems reach catastrophic level and then seek care at the local emergency room. This is dangerous for children and families, and would also result in a much more expensive form of health care delivery.

Today's bill reauthorizes SCHIP for 5 years while providing health care coverage for 10 million of our Nation's children. The bill does not expand coverage; rather it allows those currently eligible, but uninsured, the opportunity to enroll. Two-thirds of uninsured children are currently eligible for coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid, and today's bill provides the funding necessary to administer proper outreach to those qualified for the program.

I applaud Mr. DINGELL and Mr. RANGEL for their leadership in reaching an agreement that included some of the concerns voiced by Republicans who originally voted against the legislation.

The health and quality of life of our children must be a priority, and I firmly believe that this bill addresses the need to provide quality healthcare to our Nation's uninsured children. This legislation received strong bipartisan sup-

port in the House, and I call on President Bush to stop playing political games with our children's healthcare.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

THEODORE L. NEWTON, JR. AND GEORGE F. AZRAK BORDER PATROL STATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, "We cannot dedicate . . . we cannot consecrate . . . we cannot hallow . . . this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

The words of Abraham Lincoln hold as much meaning today as they did when he spoke to them in Gettysburg in 1863. Today we remember two men who gave their lives for our protection. Border Patrol agents Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak, are 2 of the 104 Customs and Border Patrol agents who have been killed in the line of duty.

Madam Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to honor the lives of two brave public servants when we vote to designate the United States Border Patrol Station in Murrieta, CA, as the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station."

Border Patrol agents Newton and Azrak selflessly gave their lives in the line of duty. During their patrol on the morning of June 17, 1967, Agents Newton and Azrak stopped an old military ambulance at a checkpoint, and inside the vehicle, they found 800 pounds of marijuana. There were two men in the ambulance and two in a car following behind, all were convicted felons and all were well armed. The four armed men overpowered the two agents and forced them to drive to a remote cabin where they handcuffed and murdered Agents Newton and Azrak. Over 400 law enforcement agents and volunteers searched the remote terrain for 2 days before the agents were finally found.

The murders of Agents Newton and Azrak prompted the Border Patrol to adopt new safety measures—including increasing manpower, adopting more up-to-date technology and implementing a new policy requiring at least three agents and a backup unit to work at each checkpoint—to ensure that this terrible incident would not be repeated.

United States Customs and Border Patrol agents have a long history of working tirelessly to make our country safer. Every day they protect our borders against terrorism and, when needed, step in to assist in the face of national disasters. Just last week, San Diego area CBP personnel were deployed to assist in wildfire emergency response.

However, it has not been tradition to name Border Patrol stations after people; they are instead named for location. Undoubtedly, the